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1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
100-67

CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACT

JUNE 11, 1987.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 52]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 52) to direct the cooperation of certain Federal entities in the implementation of the Continental Scientific Drilling Program, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment to the text and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

1. Insert after the enacting clause the following:

"That this Act may be cited as the 'Continental Scientific Drilling and Exploration Act.'".

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

S. 52 directs the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Science Foundation to cooperate in implementing a Continental Scientific Drilling Program (CSDP) in order to enhance the fundamental understanding of the composition, structure, dynamics, and evolution of the continental crust, and how such processes affect natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, transfer of geothermal energy, distribution of mineral deposits, the occurrence of fossil fuels, and the nature and extent of aquifers.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Science Foundation to prepare and submit a report to Congress relating to the CSDP.

91-010

S313-12.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

S. 52 implements section 323 of the Joint Resolution Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1985 and for other purposes (Public Law 98-473, 98 Stat. 1875), which states the sense of the Congress that the CSDP is an important national scientific endeavor which should be implemented through a joint cooperative effort among the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Such a joint effort was established by DOE, NSF, and USGS following enactment of Public Law 98-473 through an Interagency Accord on Continental Scientific Drilling.

Prior to this, the Deep Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust, Inc. (DOSECC) was formed as a private, nonprofit corporation by a consortium of universities to design and manage a national continental scientific drilling program. CSDP projects are currently being funded by DOE and NSF, with technical and scientific support provided by the USGS. DOSECC is involved in evaluation, approval and implementation of many of these projects.

The CSDP is a program involving scientific drilling on land rather than ocean or deep sea drilling. CSDP activities are being planned or undertaken in several States, including California, New Mexico, Texas, Alaska, Hawaii, and certain Midwestern and Southeastern States.

S. 52 requires that the provisions of section 323 be implemented and that all reasonable measures be taken to assure that the Interagency Accord continues to function effectively.

The bill authorizes no additional funding for the CSDP.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 52 was introduced by Senator Pressler on January 6, 1987, and cosponsored by Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Domenici, Mr. Nickles, Mr. Warner, Mr. Murkowski, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Simon, Mr. Bentsen, Mr. Hecht, Mr. Gore, and Mr. Stevens. No hearings have been conducted on this measure in the Senate during the 100th Congress. However, hearings were conducted by the Subcommittee on Natural Resources Development and Production on a substantially identical measure, S. 1026, last year. That measure was reported favorably without amendment by the Committee by unanimous voice vote. S. 1026 was passed by the full Senate without amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in an open business session on June 3, 1987, by a unanimous vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 52, if amended, as described herein.

The rollcall vote was 19 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Johnston	
Mr. Bumpers	
Mr. Ford	
Mr. Metzenbaum	
Mr. Melcher	
Mr. Bradley	
Mr. Bingaman	
Mr. Wirth	
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. McClure*	
Mr. Hatfield	
Mr. Weicker*	
Mr. Domenici	
Mr. Wallop	
Mr. Murkowski*	
Mr. Nickles*	
Mr. Hecht	
Mr. Evans	

*Indicates proxy vote.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The amendment inserts a short title for the Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Provides that the Act may be cited as the "Continental Scientific Drilling and Exploration Act."

Section 2. Sets forth the purposes of the Act. These include implementing section 323 of Public Law 98-473 (98 Stat. 1875), which supports and encourages the development of a national CSDP, enhancing the fundamental understanding of the composition, structure, dynamics, and evolution of the continental crust, and developing a long-range plan for implementation of the CSDP.

Section 3. States a number of congressional findings.

Section 4. Requires the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Geological Survey, and the Director of the National Science Foundation, to implement section 323 of Public Law 98-473 (98 Stat. 1875) by taking certain specified actions, including preparing and submitting to the Congress a report within 180 days after enactment of the bill describing, among other things, long- and short-term policy objectives of the CSDP, projected schedules of certain desirable scientific and engineering events, the extent and duration of resources and funding required, the benefits to be realized from such a program, the extent of participation or interest shown to date by certain entities, a plan to develop cooperative relationships among such entities, and any other information or recommendations deemed appropriate.

COST AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 5, 1987.

Hon. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 52, the Continental Scientific Drilling and Exploration Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, June 3, 1987.

S. 52 would implement section 323 of the joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1985, expressing the sense of the Congress that the Scientific Drilling Program be pursued by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The bill would direct the Interagency Accord on Continental Scientific Drilling, set up in response to section 323, to continue to function and to submit a report on its activities and objectives to the Congress within six months of the bill's passage.

Based on information from NSF, USGS, and DOE, we estimate that enactment of S. 52 will not result in significant additional costs to the federal government, and will not affect the budgets of state or local governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

JAMES BLUM
(For Edward M. Gramlich, Acting Director).

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 52, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Executive comments on S. 52 were not requested.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill, S. 52, as reported.

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